

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 17, 18, 32, 33, 36-43, 48 and 49 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 34 and 35 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 5-33 and 36-59 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been objected to for minor informalities. Applicants submit that those RFC protocol as described which are referred to on page 1, line 15 and page 4, line 10 of the specification were typically known in the art as referenced. The RFC protocol has solely been mentioned generally in the specification, and a more detailed description of prior art is not believed to be necessary. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Rejection of Claims 1-23 and 32-59

Claims 1-28 and 32-59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,697,352; hereinafter “Ludwig”) in view of Zhu (U.S. Patent Number 6,154,780) and Ashwood Smith (U.S. Patent Number 6,839,322). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 32 and 33 have been amended to incorporate the elements of dependent claims 3, 4, 34 and 35, respectively. Claims 3, 4, 34 and 35 have been canceled, and claims 5-12, 17, 19, 36-43, 48 and 49 have also been amended to change their dependencies. Examiner has relied on Ashwood Smith to provide a teaching of separately transmitting a label block from a payload block and mentions the separate transmission of a header portion from a data portion in column 1, lines 46-50. The amendments of claims 1, 2, 32 and 33 further distinguish the separate transmission of the header and bit stream, and include recitation of the transmission of each in acknowledged or unacknowledged modes.

Regarding amended claims 1, 2, 32 and 33, the claimed invention relates to a method of transmitting a bit stream in a communication network. Source data is coded into the bit stream using a predetermined type of coding. A header is added from each communication protocol layer to a payload while transmitting the coded bit stream to each communication protocol layer. The header is transmitted separately from the transmitted bit stream, as recited in claims 1 and 32. Similarly, claims 2 and 33 recite “separately transmitting the payload and the header.” Additionally, claims 1 and 32 recite that “a bit stream, to which headers have been added by undergoing each communication protocol layer, is transmitted in an unacknowledged mode protocol, and only the header information in the bit stream is separately transmitted in an acknowledged or unacknowledged mode protocol.” Similarly, claims 2 and 33 recite that “a payload in a bit stream, which has passed through each communication protocol layer, is transmitted in an unacknowledged mode protocol, and the header information is separately transmitted in an acknowledged mode protocol.”

Turning to Ludwig, the concept of encapsulation, whereby a packet of a higher layer is embedded in a larger packet of a lower layer, is shown in Figure 5. Data is passed through layers of protocol, whereby the resulting packet is a frame with headers added at each layer. However, Ludwig does not mention specifically transmitting payload and header information in either acknowledged or unacknowledged modes, as recited in the claims. Ludwig only discloses in column 7, lines 43-48 and column 14, lines 62-65, that TCP packets are transmitted only in numbered channels, and UDP packets are transmitted only in unnumbered channels. These packets in Ludwig include both header and data (column 2, lines 10-32). Additionally, Examiner readily admits that Ludwig also fails to disclose coding source data into the bit stream using a predetermined type of coding.

Zhu does not remedy the deficiencies of Ludwig. Zhu does not disclose at least the transmission of payload and header information in either acknowledged or unacknowledged modes, as recited in the claims. Nor does Zhu disclose separately transmitting the header and the bit stream/payload, as also claimed. Zhu teaches real-time transmission of coded digital video signals and segmentation of a digital video bitstream into transport protocol packets (column 1,

lines 16-32). Encapsulation is performed using an encoded digital video bitstream (column 1, lines 33-34). However, Examiner also admits that “both Ludwig and Zhu do not disclose transmitting the header separately from the bit stream transmitted in the step of adding a header from each communication protocol layer to a payload while transmitting the bit stream coded from a coding source data.”

Examiner now maintains that the combination of Ludwig in view of Zhu and Ashwood Smith render the claimed invention obvious. However, Ashwood Smith also does not teach the transmission of payload and header information in either acknowledged or unacknowledged modes, as recited in the claims. Ashwood Smith discloses routing of packet data across a wave division multiplex communications network having a plurality of data communications channels. “Each block (18, 20) of the frame 16 is transported across the network 2 on a respective channel (wavelength). Thus the label block 18 is transported on a respective label channel, and each payload block 20 is transported on a respective payload channel” (column 5, lines 46-54). Although a label channel is used in Ashwood Smith, there is still no mention of specifically transmitting the payload and header in either acknowledged and unacknowledged modes, as claimed. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by claims 1, 2, 32 and 33 are patentable over Ludwig in view of Zhu and Ashwood Smith. Claims {3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23-25, and 27}, {4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 26 and 28}, {34, 36, 38, 40-42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54-56 and 58} and {35, 37, 39, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 57 and 59} are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 1, 2, 32 and 33, respectively, which, as established above, distinguish over Ludwig in view of Zhu and Ashwood Smith. Therefore, claims 3-28 and 34-59 are patentably distinguished over Ludwig in view of Zhu and Ashwood Smith for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 29, 30 and 31

Claims 29, 30 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ludwig in view of Zhu. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 29, the combination of Ludwig and Zhu do not disclose every element of the claim. The claimed invention recites “a packet processing unit for transmitting the bit stream processed by the protocol processing unit in an unacknowledged mode protocol and transmitting the header information in an unacknowledged or acknowledged mode protocol.” However, even though Ludwig mentions sending UDP packets in an unnumbered mode and TCP packets in a numbered mode, whereby the UDP does not provide for retransmission of corrupted packets, there is still no mention in Ludwig or Zhu of transmitting the bit stream in an unacknowledged mode protocol, and transmitting the header information in an unacknowledged or acknowledged mode protocol, as claimed. Ludwig’s communication only sends packets already designated as UDP or TCP by their respective reliability modes (column 6, lines 9-45). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by claim 29 is patentable over Ludwig in view of Zhu.

Regarding claim 30, the combination of Ludwig and Zhu do not disclose every element of the claim. The claimed invention recites “an extractor for separately extracting payloads and header information which corresponds to the header of each layer, while transmitting a bit stream received in a separate transmission protocol in the communication network to each layer.” As discussed above, Ludwig does not teach transmitting the bit stream in an unacknowledged mode protocol, and transmitting the header information in an unacknowledged or acknowledged mode protocol. Thus, Ludwig is also incapable of, and further does not separately extract payloads and header information while transmitting a bit stream received in a separate transmission protocol, as claimed. Ludwig’s discrimination of received packets is accomplished according to rules of particular classifications determined by checking individual headers. However, the headers are not transmitted separate from the bit stream. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by claim 30 is patentable over Ludwig in view of Zhu. Claim 31 is a dependent claim including all of the elements of independent claim 30, which, as established above, patentably distinguishes over Ludwig in view of Zhu. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/751,848
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In view of the above, we believe independent claims 1, 2, 29, 30, 32 and 33, as well as dependent claims 3-28, 31 and 34-59, would not have been rendered obvious in view of the combined references.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Lenny R. Jiang
Registration No. 52,432

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